Hinduism – Arranged Marriages

Read the excerpt in the text on arranged marriages, p. 138-139 and then make a list of all the pros and cons of arranged marriages. Be prepared to debate one side of the following scenario:

Western society has a skyrocketing divorce rate of almost 50%. Studies have shown that children from single parent homes are more likely to drop out of school live in poverty and commit crimes. A new leader in Ontario is determined to try and reduce family breakdown because of the social and economic cost on society. A proposal is going forward in the courts to make arranged marriages mandatory for Ontario residents who have reached the age of 22. The leader believes that this will reduce family breakdown and make single parent homes obsolete. You will be assigned to represent a “pro’ arranged marriage or “con” arranged marriage for an informal debate in class.

The resolution before the courts is:

Be it resolved that at the age of 22 Ontario residents should be entered into an arranged marriage as chosen by individual’s family.

The Rules for Debate

Both teams are given equal times for opening statements and rebuttals

When someone is speaking there is no interrupting

Keep debate language professional and objective (no personal remarks, slang or profanity)

Keep voice at a respectable level and tone (no shouting or sarcasm)

Make sure the evidence to support your stance is objective and not personal opinions

No new information can be added in rebuttals

Time Limits and Format of Debate

1. First speaker with opening statement – 8 minutes

2. First speaker of opposing team with opening statement- 8 minutes

3. Affirmative team provides further arguments and answers questions raised in opening statements. - 8 minutes

4. Opposing team provides further arguments and answers questions raised in opening statements. - 8 minutes

5. 5 minute break to prepare for rebuttals

6. Opposing team opens the rebuttal -5 minutes

7. Affirmative provides their rebuttal -5 minutes

8. Opposing team has second opportunity for rebuttal and closing statements – 3 minutes

9. Affirmative team has second opportunity for rebuttal and closing statements – 3 minutes (Affirmative team has last opportunity to speak)